

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16-20, 22, and 24-26 are pending. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 21, and 23 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 13 is presently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 10, and 12 are currently amended. Support for the amendments may be found in at least paragraphs [0032] and [0034] of the application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Specification

The specification is objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). *Office Action*, pages 2 and 3. Applicants have amended the specification to indicate that examples of the computer-readable storage media include, but are not limited to, memory including RAM or ROM. Support for the amendment to the specification may be found in at least paragraph [0023] of the application, and Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Applicants request the 37 CFR § 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o) objections to the specification be removed.

The specification was also objected to on page 3 of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §132(a). Applicants have amended the specification to replace the objected language with “memory, including RAM or ROM.” Applicants request the 35 U.S.C. §132(a) objection to the specification be removed.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 24, and 25 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 24, and 25 on page 4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over “Microsoft Office XP Inside Out,” published in 2001 (“Halvorson”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,481 (“Michelman”) in view of Advanced Excel Find (“AEF”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF do not disclose or suggest a graphical control panel that comprises a spreadsheet selection area that includes a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 1. Support for the amendment made to claim 1 may be found in at least paragraphs [0032] and [0034] of the application.

In contrast to claim 1, Halvorson discloses the completion of daily tasks in Excel in which it is necessary by the user to open multiple workbooks. *Halvorson*, page 691. Additional workbooks are opened manually by the user through the use of file and open buttons and can be arranged in tiled, horizontal, vertical or cascade arrangements with respect to one another. *Halvorson*, page 692. Information can be linked between workbooks and such linking functionality first requires that the user open each of the workbooks that is planned to be used. *Halvorson*, page 693. Once the desired workbooks are open, formulas that reference cells in other workbooks may be created. *Halvorson*, page 693. The cited portions of Halvorson disclose workbooks that are included in a selection of workbooks that have data linked between the selected workbooks to all be first initially opened. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson fail to disclose or suggest a graphical control panel that comprises a spreadsheet selection area that includes a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 1.

In further contrast to claim 1, Michelman discloses a system for referencing a range of cells in a spreadsheet formula by using label references that refer to a range of cells. *Michelman*, column 1, lines 55-60. The user may reference a cell within a spreadsheet table by entering column and row labels that intersect with the cell. *Michelman*, column 2, lines 4-6. A formula may be entered and a pointing device can be used to select a range of cells. *Michelman*, column 3, lines 5-8. The cited portions of Michelman thus disclose an open spreadsheet from which a range of cells is selected because a user is able to see the range of cells so that they can be highlighted with the pointing device. Therefore, the cited portions of Michelman fail to disclose or suggest a graphical control panel that comprises a spreadsheet selection area that includes a

workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 1.

In further contrast to claim 1, AEF discloses an Excel add-in that allows searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks. *AEF*, page 1. A single button on an Excel toolbar is provided to initiate the program. *AEF*, page 1. Simultaneous searching in formulas, values, and comments may be conducted. *AEF*, page 1. The user enters text or numbers and then sets workbooks and worksheets to be searched through. *AEF*, page 1. The workbooks and worksheets are open workbooks and worksheets because the searching program is initiated through the use of a button on an Excel toolbar in an Excel program that has multiple open worksheets and workbooks. The set workbooks and worksheets to be searched through are not disclosed as being closed workbooks and worksheets. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a graphical control panel that comprises a spreadsheet selection area that includes a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 24, and 25 depend from claim 1, and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable claim 1. Further, the dependent claims recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF.

For example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest automatically appending additional data to a final report spreadsheet, where the additional data is not within the plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 8. Instead, Halvorson discloses a consolidate command to assemble workbook information and the use of statistical functions on selected cell ranges to obtain useful information about the data. *Halvorson*, page 694. In a consolidate data box, the user may open a list box and chose a function or use a default function. *Halvorson*, page 695. The user may then identify corresponding ranges of cells, select an add button, select labels in a column, and then select an OK button to generate the consolidation. *Halvorson*, page 696. Data added to the consolidation spreadsheet is manually selected and additional data added to the consolidation spreadsheet once generated is not disclosed. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson fail to disclose or suggest automatically

appending additional data to a final report spreadsheet, where the additional data is not within the plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 8. In further contrast to claim 8, the cited portions of Michelman disclose a method for automatically inserting label references into a formula of a spreadsheet for identifying a range of cells. *Michelman*, column 3, lines 3-5. A consolidation spreadsheet is not disclosed. Therefore, the cited portions of Michelman fail to disclose or suggest automatically appending additional data to a final report spreadsheet, where the additional data is not within the plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 8. The cited portions of AEF disclose an add-in that enhances Excel's built-in find function by allowing searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks. *AEF*, page 1. A consolidation spreadsheet is not disclosed. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest automatically appending additional data to a final report spreadsheet, where the additional data is not within the plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 8. Hence, claim 8 is allowable for this additional reason.

As another example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest additional data that includes workbook names that designate original locations of portions of data, as in claim 24. Instead, Halvorson discloses the consolidation of worksheets with identical formats in which summary headings are added to a blank worksheet and a sum function is selected. *Halvorson*, page 695. The user may select a range of cells to which the function is applied, and a consolidation page may be produced. *Halvorson*, page 696. The consolidation page includes consolidated sales totals for one fiscal year for various salesmen. *Halvorson*, page 697. The consolidated page displays dollar amounts and the name of the salesman but does not indicate an original location of the data. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson fail to disclose or suggest additional data that includes workbook names that designate original locations of the portions of data, as in claim 24. In further contrast to claim 24, the cited portions of Michelman disclose a method for automatically inserting label references into a formula of a spreadsheet for identifying a range of cells. *Michelman*, column 3, lines 3-5. A consolidation spreadsheet is not disclosed, and a label reference in a formula provides information as to the meaning of the formula but not to an original location of data. Therefore, the cited portions of Michelman fail to disclose or suggest a method where the additional data includes workbook names that designate original locations of the portions of data,

as in claim 24. The cited portions of AEF disclose an add-in that enhances Excel's built-in find function by allowing searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks. *AEF*, page 1. A consolidation spreadsheet is not disclosed, and searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks results in data being returned but does not provide an original location of data. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a method where the additional data includes workbook names that designate original locations of the portions of data, as in claim 24. Hence, claim 24 is allowable for this additional reason.

As a still further example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest additional data that includes spreadsheet names to designate where portions of data were originally located, as in claim 25. Hence, claim 25 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claims 10 and 22 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 10 and 22 on page 4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Halvorson in view of Michelman in view of AEF. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 10. For example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF do not disclose or suggest a computer storage readable medium where a spreadsheet selection area includes a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 10. Support for the amendment made to claim 10 may be found in at least paragraphs [0032] and [0034] of the application.

In contrast to claim 10, Halvorson discloses information that can be linked between workbooks in which the linking first requires that the user open each of the workbooks that is planned to be used. *Halvorson*, page 693. The cited portions of Halvorson thus disclose workbooks that are included in a selection of workbooks that have data linked between the

selected workbooks that are first initially opened. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson fail to disclose or suggest a computer storage readable medium where a spreadsheet selection area includes a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 10.

In further contrast to claim 10, Michelman discloses a system for referencing a range of cells in a spreadsheet formula by using label references that refer to a range of cells. *Michelman*, column 1, lines 55-60. A pointing device can be used to select a range of cells, and the cited portions of Michelman thus disclose an open spreadsheet from which a range of cells is selected because a user is able to see the range of cells so that they can be highlighted with the pointing device. *Michelman*, column 3, lines 5-8. Therefore, the cited portions of Michelman fail to disclose or suggest a computer storage readable medium where a spreadsheet selection area includes a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 10.

In further contrast to claim 10, AEF discloses an Excel add-in that allows searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks. *AEF*, page 1. A single button on an Excel toolbar is provided to initiate the program. *AEF*, page 1. The user enters text or numbers and then sets workbooks and worksheets to be searched through. *AEF*, page 1. The workbooks and worksheets are open workbooks and worksheets because the searching program is initiated through the use of a button on an Excel toolbar in an Excel program that has multiple open worksheets and workbooks. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a computer storage readable medium where a spreadsheet selection area includes a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 10. Hence, claim 10 is allowable. Claim 22 depends from claim 10 and is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 10.

Claims 12, 16-18, 20, and 26 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 12, 13, 16-18, 20, and 26 on page 4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Halvorson in view of Michelman in view of AEF. Applicants have cancelled claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

The cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. For example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF do not disclose or suggest a spreadsheet selection area that comprises a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 12. Support for the amendment made to claim 12 may be found in at least paragraphs [0032] and [0034] of the application.

In contrast to claim 12, Halvorson discloses information that can be linked between workbooks in which the linking first requires that the user open each of the workbooks that is planned to be used. *Halvorson*, page 693. The cited portions of Halvorson thus disclose workbooks that are included in a selection of workbooks that have data linked between the selected workbooks that are first initially opened. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson fail to disclose or suggest a spreadsheet selection area that comprises a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 12.

In further contrast to claim 12, Michelman discloses a system for referencing a range of cells in a spreadsheet formula by using label references that refer to a range of cells. *Michelman*, column 1, lines 55-60. A pointing device can be used to select a range of cells, and the cited portions of Michelman thus disclose an open spreadsheet from which a range of cells is selected. *Michelman*, column 3, lines 5-8. Therefore, the cited portions of Michelman fail to disclose or suggest a spreadsheet selection area that comprises a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 12.

In further contrast to claim 12, AEF discloses an Excel add-in that allows searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks. *AEF*, page 1. A single button on an Excel toolbar is provided to initiate the program. *AEF*, page 1. The user enters text or numbers and then sets workbooks and worksheets to be searched through. *AEF*, page 1. The workbooks and worksheets are open workbooks and worksheets because the searching program is initiated through the use of a button on an Excel toolbar in an Excel program that has multiple open worksheets and workbooks. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a spreadsheet selection area that comprises a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 12. Hence, claim 12 is allowable. Claims 16-18, 20, and 26 depend from claim 12, and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable claim 12.

Claim 19 Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 19 on page 10 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Halvorson in view of Michelman in view of AEF in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,687 (“Neilsen”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As noted above, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 12, from which claim 19 depends. For example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF do not disclose or suggest a system where a spreadsheet selection area comprises a workbook selection area to select workbooks that are not open for inclusion in a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets, as in claim 12. The cited portions of Neilsen fail to correct this deficiency. Instead, Neilsen discloses program logic that is used to select one executing task and display a graphical representation of progress status information of the selected executing task. *Neilsen*, column 1, lines 35-40. In another embodiment, a graphical representation is provided that gives status information on instances of multiple tasks executing in the system. *Neilsen*, column 1, lines 57-60. The cited portions of Neilsen fail to disclose or suggest a spreadsheet or a workbook. Therefore, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman,

AEF, and Neilsen, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 12, from which claim 19 depends. Hence, claim 19 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 12.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

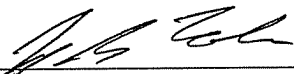
Any changes to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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